

WILLIAM T. STERLING AND OTHERS.

MAY 9, 1898.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House and ordered to be printed.

Mr. BROWNLOW, from the Committee on Military Affairs, submitted the following

REPORT.

[To accompany H. R. 7618.]

The Committee on Military Affairs, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 7618) for the relief of William T. Sterling and fifty-seven others, etc., submit the following report:

This bill is for the relief of William T. Sterling and fifty-seven other enlisted men of Company K, First Regiment Eastern Shore Volunteers, who were dishonorably discharged from the service July 2, 1863, because of their refusal to serve at points other than on the Eastern Shore of the Chesapeake Bay. The members of this company, with others, were recruited under authority of the Secretary of War and assurances of the recruiting officers that they were to serve only on the Eastern Shore of the Chesapeake Bay as a home guard.

In view of the fact that it is conceded by the Department that these special conditions of enlistment were authorized by the Secretary of War, and as the members fulfilled the terms and conditions of their enlistment, this committee recommend that the bill do pass with the following proviso added:

That no pay, bounty, or other emoluments shall become due or payable by virtue of the passage of this act.